PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE
PROPOSED REVISED SHELL OFFSHORE, INC.
KULLUK AIR QUALITY PERMIT #R100CS-AK-07-01

Taken March 25, 2008 Commencing at 7:28 p.m.

Volume I - Pages 1 - 29, inclusive

Taken at
Barrow City Hall Chambers
Barrow, Alaska

Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

```
Page 2
                      A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S
 1
 2
     For U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10:
 3
              Dan Mahar
              Environmental Engineer
 4
              Dan Meyer
 5
              Environmental Engineer
              Ted Rockwell
 6
              Senior Advisor, Oil and Gas Sector
 7
              Rick Albright
              Director, Office of Air, Waste and
 8
                Toxics
 9
              Cathy Villa
              Tribal Coordinator
10
     Taken by:
11
12
               Mary A. Vavrik, RMR
13
14
     BE IT KNOWN that the proceedings were taken at the
15
     time and place duly noted on the title page, before
16
     Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary
     Public within and for the State of Alaska.
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

- 1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
- 2 MR. ROCKWELL: It's about 7:25, 7:30.
- 3 Not quite 7:30. I'm thinking that this is a good
- 4 time to start, perhaps. And I'd like to ask Beverly
- 5 Hugo to give an invocation.
- 6 (Invocation in Inupiat by Beverly Hugo.)
- 7 MR. ROCKWELL: Thank you. I'm
- 8 wondering -- Beverly is also going to provide
- 9 translation for us. Do we have a need for
- 10 translation here in the room in Barrow? What about
- 11 on the telephone?
- MS. KRISTI FRANKSON: (via telephone)
- 13 No, not on -- not from Point Hope.
- 14 MR. ROCKWELL: Okay. What we will
- do, then, is we will have Beverly standing by. And
- 16 for the folks who are teleconferencing into this, if
- 17 someone arrives who needs translation, please let me
- 18 know and we will have Beverly start translating at
- 19 that point. But we will give her a breather for the
- 20 moment.
- 21 Thank you all for being here. My name is
- 22 Ted Rockwell. I work for Region 10, the
- 23 Environmental Protection Agency in the Alaska
- 24 Operations Office in Anchorage. I'm the Senior
- 25 Advisor for the Oil and Gas Sector.

- 1 And I'd like to introduce the other people
- 2 from EPA who are here tonight. Rick Albright is the
- 3 Director of Air, Waste and Toxics Office. To his
- 4 left is Dan Meyer, who is a permit engineer. Kathy
- 5 Villa is a tribal liaison in our Anchorage office.
- 6 Dan Mahar is a permit engineer in the Seattle
- 7 office, as well. And we have with us -- Mary Vavrik
- 8 is our court reporter. And she will be providing
- 9 EPA with a transcript of this hearing.
- 10 My job here is to make sure that everyone
- 11 who wants to testify gets a chance and that we
- 12 understand fully and completely what -- what your
- 13 testimony is. So I'll be asking you to remember, if
- 14 you provide testimony, to give us your full name; if
- 15 you are representing someone, who you are
- 16 representing, or if you are representing an
- 17 organization.
- 18 The hearing is taking place today, Tuesday,
- 19 March 25, 2008 in the Barrow City Chambers, Barrow,
- 20 Alaska. Notice of this hearing was published in the
- 21 Anchorage Daily News on February 21, 2008. Notices
- 22 of this hearing were also requested to be posted
- 23 here in Barrow. You may have become aware of this
- 24 public hearing either by word of mouth or by a
- 25 notice posted.

- 1 EPA is here to hear from you. We would
- 2 like to share your comments on EPA's preliminary
- 3 decision to issue a revised air quality permit,
- 4 No. R100CS-AK-07-01, Shell Offshore, Incorporated,
- 5 to conduct exploration oil and gas drilling in the
- 6 Beaufort Sea. Details of the project's air
- 7 pollution impacts and EPA's preliminary decision are
- 8 documented in writing.
- 9 EPA has made available on February 25, 2008
- 10 Shell's application, EPA's proposed revised air
- 11 permit, and EPA's accompanying support materials. A
- 12 hard copy of that material is available here in
- 13 Barrow in the Tuzzy Consortium Library for public
- 14 review. The information is also available on the
- 15 Internet at the web address printed on the handouts
- 16 that are available over on the table where Dan Mahar
- 17 sits.
- 18 Your comments tonight will help us finalize
- 19 or modify the permit as currently proposed. We are
- 20 most interested in your ideas about the revised
- 21 portions of this permit, including the ambient
- 22 impact assessment and our preliminary determination
- 23 that major source review is unnecessary.
- 24 If you think EPA should deny Shell's
- 25 application or issue the permit, it is important for

- 1 EPA to hear this, along with the reasons why. EPA
- 2 will respond to the testimony. Our response will be
- 3 in writing and will accompany the final permit
- 4 decision. If you provide us your contact details,
- 5 you will be sent a copy of tonight's testimony,
- 6 EPA's written response, and EPA's final permit
- 7 decision. You can provide us your contact details
- 8 by filling out the public hearing sign-in sheet.
- 9 In addition to taking oral testimony, EPA
- 10 is also accepting written comments. If you don't
- 11 want to testify, you can provide us with written
- 12 comments today using the comment form that is on the
- 13 table back there. Use the public comment form --
- 14 use of the public comment form is not required but
- 15 is recommended.
- 16 Remember, you can also e-mail or
- 17 traditional post mail your comments to us by April
- 18 1st. If you e-mail by April 1st, we will accept
- 19 that. If you are using traditional mail and the
- 20 envelope is postmarked the 1st of April, we will
- 21 accept those comments, as well. EPA is accepting
- 22 both spoken and written testimony. We have the
- 23 option of providing spoken testimony, written
- 24 comments, or both.
- 25 If you choose to submit written comments

- 1 tonight, please give them to us. If you mail in
- 2 written comments, they must be postmarked no later
- 3 than April 1st, as I said. Written comments can be
- 4 mailed to the address on the air permit fact sheet,
- 5 which is also available on the table. EPA's address
- 6 is also on the comment sheet. If you would like to
- 7 submit comments by e-mail, you can do so. They need
- 8 to be received by April 1st, as well.
- 9 We will now begin the hearing where we will
- 10 take spoken testimony. Please speak slowly and
- 11 clearly so that Mary, our court reporter, can
- 12 understand your testimony. As you begin your
- 13 testimony, please state your name and address, who
- 14 you are representing. Thank you very much for that.
- 15 The sign-in sheet indicated that Barrett
- 16 Ristroph would be our first testimony.
- 17 MS. BARRETT RISTROPH: Yes. Is Shell
- 18 going to feel insulted if I turn my back to them?
- 19 All right. Well, hello. For the record,
- 20 I'm Barrett Ristroph, and I'm with the North Slope
- 21 Borough Law Department. I'm presenting the
- 22 testimony on Shell's air permits on behalf of North
- 23 Slope Borough Mayor Edward Itta and the Director of
- 24 Planning, Johnny Aiken. And I know a lot of folks
- 25 from the borough and from planning would like to be

- 1 here tonight, but it is the Elders/Youth Conference,
- 2 so they are attending that. And we will have more
- 3 of our NSB folks, local folks, at the other
- 4 meetings.
- 5 We would like to thank the Environmental
- 6 Protection Agency, EPA, for holding informational
- 7 sessions and public meetings in the communities
- 8 affected by the Shell permitting decision. The
- 9 Inupiat culture places a high value on listening and
- 10 learning from each other. We are pleased that both
- 11 the EPA and Shell are here to listen to the
- 12 community. We hope you will take what you hear this
- 13 evening very seriously.
- 14 The borough appreciates EPA's efforts this
- 15 year to improve community outreach and planning for
- 16 these meetings. We got off to a rocky start last
- 17 year when EPA scheduled the Shell air permit public
- 18 process during spring whaling. We are pleased that
- 19 EPA has scheduled these meetings prior to our hunt.
- 20 It demonstrates respect for our Inupiat traditions
- 21 and provides opportunity for our communities to
- 22 fully participate in the public process.
- We know the community has a number of
- 24 concerns about the Shell offshore exploration
- 25 program, but I want to remind everyone testifying

- 1 tonight that EPA is only here to talk about whether
- 2 they should issue Shell an air permit to drill
- 3 exploration wells in the Beaufort Sea using the
- 4 Kulluk drill ship and its support vessels. At this
- 5 meeting, EPA can only consider comments that are
- 6 directly related to Shell's air permit for the
- 7 Kulluk exploration drilling program.
- 8 At this point I would like to take a moment
- 9 to remind the community of a bit of history on the
- 10 project. There are two main categories of air
- 11 pollution permits under the Clean Air Act: Those
- 12 for minor sources of air pollution and those for
- 13 major sources. Back in 2007, EPA issued two minor
- 14 source air permits to Shell. One minor source air
- 15 permit was issued to Shell for the Kulluk drill ship
- 16 and another for the Discoverer drill ship. The NSB,
- 17 Native villages, and ICAS all opposed these permits
- 18 because we believed it was inappropriate to issue a
- 19 minor source air permit to major sources of air
- 20 pollution.
- 21 We shared our concerns with EPA by
- 22 submitting formal written comments and by providing
- 23 oral testimony. However, EPA did not satisfactorily
- 24 address our concerns. EPA went ahead and issued
- 25 minor air permits despite our objections, which

- 1 forced us to appeal the 2007 Shell air permits to
- 2 the Environmental Appeals Board. As a result of the
- 3 appeal, the Environmental Appeals Board sent both
- 4 the Kulluk and Discoverer drill permits back to EPA
- 5 to revise them and, in particular, to reconsider
- 6 whether EPA had appropriately issued a minor air
- 7 permit to those large industrial sources of air
- 8 pollution.
- 9 Shell has decided not use the Discoverer
- 10 drill ship this year, so the only permit we are
- 11 talking about tonight is the air permit for the
- 12 Kulluk drill ship. Since the September 2007
- 13 Environmental Appeals Board order, EPA has taken
- 14 about six months to reexamine and issue a revised
- 15 permit. Tonight EPA wants input on their revised
- 16 permit for the Kulluk drilling operation.
- 17 NSB is very disappointed in this proposed
- 18 air permit. EPA has offered us essentially the same
- 19 permit we rejected last year. The permit does not
- 20 represent any significant reduction in emissions
- 21 from the 2007 permit. EPA has not required Shell to
- 22 install any new air pollution controls. The agency
- 23 has merely added legal language to defend the permit
- 24 it issued back in 2007. Once EPA issues this
- 25 permit, it will be good as long as the Kulluk is

- 1 operating in this area. It is very important that
- 2 this permit addresses our concerns before it is
- 3 issued because we will have to live with the permits
- 4 for many years.
- 5 The fundamental problem with this revised
- 6 permit is that EPA is still proposing to issue minor
- 7 stationary source permits to Shell for each well
- 8 they drill instead of considering Shell's whole
- 9 exploration program as one major project that would
- 10 require more stringent air pollution controls.
- 11 Shell is proposing to use the Kulluk to
- 12 drill exploration wells in the Beaufort Sea. The
- 13 Kulluk has a number of air pollution sources,
- 14 including big powerful engines to run the rig,
- 15 boilers, fuel tanks and incinerators. To support
- 16 this drill ship, there will be two big ice breakers
- 17 with large engines, incinerators and boilers, and
- 18 resupply vessels, oil spill response vessels, and
- 19 fuel tankers that all contribute to air pollution.
- We have asked EPA to combine all the
- 21 pollution from all the wells they drill in the same
- 22 drilling season into one major permit that
- 23 encompasses Shell's entire exploration program. For
- 24 example, Shell is proposing to drill three wells
- 25 into the Sivulliq Prospect this year. These wells

- 1 are located only a few miles from each other. EPA
- 2 is proposing to permit each well as a separate
- 3 project so they can issue a minor permit for each
- 4 well. The benefit to Shell is that they do not have
- 5 to install additional air pollution controls. We do
- 6 not think that air pollution from wells just a few
- 7 miles from each other should be given separate minor
- 8 air permits to avoid installing additional pollution
- 9 controls.
- 10 Air permitting is a complicated business,
- 11 so I'm going to try to simplify it as much as
- 12 possible. A major source air permit represents the
- 13 best protection of human health because it requires
- 14 the polluter to install the best available pollution
- 15 control technology. When we talk about major source
- 16 air permits for Shell, you may also hear the term
- 17 PSD permits. It means a permit that is issued to
- 18 prevent significant deterioration to our air.
- 19 Preventing any further deterioration of the air
- 20 quality in the North Slope is important because our
- 21 health and our way of life are sensitive to
- 22 increases in air pollution.
- 23 Before Shell became involved in this
- 24 project, it was ARCO that was going to use the
- 25 Kulluk in the Beaufort Sea to do exploration

- 1 drilling. ARCO worked with EPA to obtain a major
- 2 source air permit for the Kulluk, a PSD permit.
- 3 ARCO evaluated the state-of-the-art technology in
- 4 air pollution control and made sure they upgraded
- 5 their equipment to protect human health and the
- 6 environment. This is the type of corporate and
- 7 government cooperation we are asking from EPA and
- 8 Shell. We would simply like them to ensure that the
- 9 best available air pollution controls are installed
- 10 to protect our human health.
- 11 There is nothing preventing Shell from
- 12 asking EPA to start working with them on a major PSD
- 13 air permit and put this whole matter to rest. Yet,
- 14 despite our repeated requests, Shell has been
- 15 unwilling to respond to the communities' concerns on
- 16 this permit. Instead, Shell has asked EPA to issue
- 17 minor air permits for each exploration well. By
- 18 dividing the exploration program into several
- 19 pieces, Shell can keep the amount of air pollution
- 20 at each well just below the threshold for obtaining
- 21 a major air permit. If we were to add up the air
- 22 pollution even from two wells in their program,
- 23 Shell would exceed the threshold for a major permit.
- 24 Shell has asked EPA to divide the
- 25 exploration program into multiple minor air permits

- 1 for each well because they will save money by not
- 2 having to study whether the best available pollution
- 3 control technology is installed, and they will also
- 4 save money by not having to install, operate, and
- 5 maintain additional emission control equipment.
- The borough has hired consultants to review
- 7 this permit. We are confident that a major PSD air
- 8 permit review would result in Shell installing
- 9 additional emission control, especially on the main
- 10 engines. We are concerned about the bad precedent
- 11 it would set if EPA and industry are able to
- 12 partition major industrial operations into small
- 13 pieces to avoid installing better air pollution
- 14 controls. This is bad public policy and is not
- 15 consistent with the goals of the Clean Air Act.
- 16 We urge Shell to be a good neighbor and
- 17 invest in the best available air pollution controls
- 18 to protect our health.
- 19 We request that EPA work with Shell to
- 20 complete a best available control technology review
- 21 and install pollution controls.
- It is through mutual respect that we will
- 23 find a way to work together. This is the air we
- 24 breathe. Please be respectful of our health, our
- 25 communities, and our environment.

- 1 There is one more issue that concerns us
- 2 tonight. In both 2007 and 2008, NSB and NSB
- 3 communities asked EPA to complete the environmental
- 4 justice analysis required under Executive Order
- 5 12898 to determine whether the Inupiat would bear a
- 6 disproportionate risk resulting from the proposed
- 7 emissions. The federal government has an
- 8 environmental justice program that was put in place
- 9 to ensure that Native communities and other
- 10 minorities are not disproportionately impacted by
- 11 pollution. EPA did not respond to this request.
- 12 The NSB appealed this issue to the
- 13 Environmental Appeals Board, and during the appeal
- 14 EPA and Shell conceded that EPA must conduct this
- 15 analysis. Yet, this analysis still has not been
- 16 completed. This important work should be completed
- 17 and made available for public review and comment
- 18 prior to making any decision on this permit.
- 19 In today's informational meeting and in the
- 20 permit documents, EPA tells us we should not be
- 21 concerned about this permit. EPA assures us the
- 22 permit meets the National Ambient Air Quality
- 23 Standards, and they promise there will be no health
- 24 impacts. However, our medical expert, Dr. Aaron
- 25 Wernham, has repeatedly advised us that the current

- 1 national standards used in this permit are not
- 2 protective of Native human health. The Inupiat are
- 3 a more vulnerable population, and our health impacts
- 4 and environment are unique and deserve a more
- 5 careful assessment.
- 6 As explained in our comments on the 2007
- 7 version of this permit and in the Environmental
- 8 Appeals Board appeal, EPA has not evaluated the
- 9 health impacts from fine particulate matter, nor has
- 10 EPA examined the health impacts from hazardous air
- 11 pollutants emitted from this operation.
- We have a number of other technical and
- 13 legal concerns with the proposed permit. These
- 14 specific concerns will be provided to EPA in
- 15 writing, but tonight it is important for us all to
- 16 hear from the people who are taking the time to
- 17 share their thoughts. I will end my comments here
- 18 so community members have the opportunity to speak.
- 19 Thank you.
- 20 MR. ROCKWELL: Thank you very much.
- 21 Has Earl joined us on the phone?
- 22 MS. KRISTI FRANKSON: No. I'm sorry.
- 23 He hasn't shown up yet.
- MR. ROCKWELL: Okay. Then we will
- 25 continue down the list. The next person for

- 1 testimony is Martha Falk.
- 2 MS. MARTHA IPALOOK-FALK: I thought I
- 3 signed last.
- 4 Good evening. My name is Martha
- 5 Ipalook-Falk, and I'm the Natural Resource/EPA
- 6 Director with the Inupiat Community of the Arctic
- 7 Slope.
- 8 Good evening and thank you for coming to
- 9 the North Slope to conduct public hearings for the
- 10 Shell OCS air quality permit, Kulluk operations.
- 11 My name is Martha Ipalook-Falk. I'm
- 12 speaking on behalf of the Inupiat Community of the
- 13 Arctic Slope, ICAS, Natural Resource/EPA Department,
- and the membership of ICAS, which is comprised of
- 15 eight North Slope villages: Barrow, Anaktuvik Pass,
- 16 Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay, Point Hope,
- 17 and Wainwright, Alaska.
- 18 ICAS is a federally recognized regional
- 19 tribal government that has historically been
- 20 responsible to protect the environment and to
- 21 preserve, sustain, and maintain our cultural and
- 22 traditional lifestyle, in particular our subsistence
- 23 way of life.
- In previous documents that ICAS has
- 25 submitted to other federal agencies that have been

- 1 involved with Shell's OCS proposed activities and
- 2 with other oil and gas operators on the North Slope,
- 3 ICAS has always given the message of its opposition
- 4 to offshore activities/developments in the Beaufort
- 5 and Chukchi Seas; the reason being that these
- 6 activities or developments will, in fact, impact the
- 7 natural resources that the Inupiat rely on for
- 8 sustenance: The bowhead whale, walrus, seals, polar
- 9 bears, migratory birds, migratory fish, and also the
- 10 habitats for which the natural resources rely on for
- 11 their existence.
- 12 One of the components of a habitat is the
- 13 atmosphere, which is why we are here this evening to
- 14 comment on the importance of making sure that the
- 15 atmosphere is not polluted by the activities that
- 16 Shell will be conducting with the Kulluk drill ship
- 17 and the various support vessels.
- 18 The area that we are speaking of tonight
- 19 already has some pollutants from what is called
- 20 Arctic haze, air pollutants that migrate from other
- 21 parts of the world. The emissions that are going to
- 22 be generated by Shell's operations will add to this
- 23 already occurring event. Also, with the climate
- 24 change issues that seem to have escalated within the
- 25 Arctic region, this will most likely open up marine

- 1 vessel traffic because of the ice-free oceans. This
- 2 may not happen in the near future, but it is going
- 3 to happen eventually. This will be another source
- 4 of pollutants that will be released into the Arctic
- 5 atmosphere. These are cumulative events that will
- 6 occur throughout the years.
- 7 I find it disturbing that on February 25,
- 8 2008 EPA posted a media release on their website,
- 9 Air Permit Proposed for Shell Drilling Rig in
- 10 Arctic's Beaufort Sea. The content of this media
- 11 release made statements such as follows: "According
- 12 to Rick Albright, Director of EPA's Air, Waste and
- 13 Toxics Office in Seattle, careful review and
- 14 analysis has led EPA to determine that air emissions
- 15 authorized under the proposed permit would have no
- 16 adverse effect on public health in the nearby Arctic
- 17 communities. The local communities have expressed a
- 18 wide range of important social and public health
- 19 concerns related to this permit, said EPA's
- 20 Albright.
- 21 "We examined questions related to air
- 22 quality impacts associated with the exploratory
- 23 drilling operations. From an air quality
- 24 standpoint, this proposed permit will meet all
- 25 health-based ambient air quality standards. It

- 1 seems that based on EPA's review of both new and
- 2 existing information related to Shell's proposed
- 3 drilling operation, the agency has modified its
- 4 determination as to what constitutes a single
- 5 stationary source, revised the ambient air impact
- 6 analysis, and added or modified some permit terms
- 7 and conditions."
- 8 It appears that EPA has added or modified
- 9 and revised some permit terms and conditions for
- 10 Shell's benefit only. By the way the media releases
- 11 word it, it portrays that Shell will get approval
- 12 for the permits they have resubmitted. Director
- 13 Albright's statements, "no adverse effects on public
- 14 health," I am curious to know what definition EPA is
- 15 utilizing to make these types of determinations.
- 16 The World Health Organization defines health as a
- 17 state of complete physical, emotional, and social
- 18 well-being and not merely the absence of diseases.
- 19 I believe that EPA is defining health only in
- 20 relation to diseases that occur from air pollutants.
- 21 The activities that will be conducted by
- 22 Shell with the stationary drilling vessel and the
- 23 supporting marine vessels and, I'm assuming,
- 24 helicopters occasionally will indeed add air
- 25 pollutants to the atmosphere, and this has a

- 1 potential to impact. It creates a risk to health,
- 2 culture, and well-being of the Inupiat people, the
- 3 fact being that the Inupiat depend on subsistence
- 4 and the integrity of the environment for our health,
- 5 the health of not only the people, but also of our
- 6 traditional social and spiritual well-being in
- 7 relation to our connectedness with the natural
- 8 resources and environment around us.
- 9 Executive Order 12898, federal actions to
- 10 address environmental justice in minority and low
- 11 income populations, directs each federal agency to
- 12 make achieving environmental justice part of its
- 13 mission by identifying and addressing
- 14 disproportionately high and adverse human health and
- 15 environmental effects of its programs, policies and
- 16 activities on minority and low income populations.
- 17 Also, Executive Order 12898 directs each
- 18 federal agency to collect and analyze information on
- 19 comparative environmental and human health risks
- 20 borne by different populations in order to be able
- 21 to determine whether the agency's programs, policies
- 22 and activities have disproportionately high adverse
- 23 human health or environmental effects on minority
- 24 and low income populations.
- What comparative analysis has EPA done to

- 1 determine whether EPA's programs, policies and
- 2 activities under EPA's air quality program will not
- 3 have disproportionate high adverse human health or
- 4 environmental effects on minority and low income
- 5 populations?
- 6 Also, Executive Order 12898 specifically
- 7 directs each federal agency to pay particular
- 8 attention to disproportionate impacts on populations
- 9 who principally rely on fish and/or wildlife for
- 10 subsistence. I believe that the Inupiat people can
- 11 be termed a minority amongst society as a whole, and
- 12 there has been documentation to prove that there is
- 13 a high rate of low income households within the
- 14 Arctic communities that would qualify under
- 15 Executive Order 12898 to be complied with by EPA.
- 16 There is readily available public health data which
- 17 would inform of such analysis.
- 18 As stated in a document by Dr. Aaron
- 19 Wernham, the potential cause to human health effects
- 20 would be through stress and concern over poorly
- 21 regulated emissions in the migratory path of bowhead
- 22 whales, which many people worry could be harmed or
- 23 contaminated by these emissions; dietary change
- leading to heart disease and diabetes if people
- 25 avoid Native foods; exacerbation of breathing

- 1 problems like asthma from air pollution.
- 2 Dr. Wernham has also commented in relation
- 3 to EPA's determination that human health will be
- 4 protected under the air quality program policies,
- 5 standards or regulations. He has stated that there
- 6 are two fundamental errors in the conclusion that
- 7 EPA has given.
- First, EPA itself has acknowledged that the
- 9 current NAAOS standards result in considerable
- 10 excess mortality compared with more stringent
- 11 targets. It is therefore entirely inaccurate to
- 12 conclude that the project will not have an adverse
- impact upon public health simply because it will
- 14 allegedly comply with NAAQS, standards which EPA
- 15 acknowledges do not, in fact, protect health
- 16 compared with stricter standards.
- 17 For example, a one mcg per cubic meter
- 18 reduction in fine particulate from the current
- 19 standard of 15 to 14 would result in a nearly 50
- 20 percent reduction in mortality, and up to 35 percent
- 21 reduction in a range of nonfatal illnesses and lost
- 22 work days; one-third to unpolluted, or pristine,
- 23 conditions. Furthermore, public health data
- 24 demonstrates that this increased mortality accrues
- 25 disproportionately to vulnerable populations such as

- 1 the North Slope Borough, which has an extremely high
- 2 baseline prevalence of chronic pulmonary disease.
- 3 Similarly, EPA's regulatory impact analysis
- 4 for the recently-adopted eight-hour ozone standard
- of 0.075 parts per million again acknowledges
- 6 substantially higher mortality, morbidity, and lost
- 7 work days at this standard than at either 0.065 or
- 8 0.07 parts per million. Again, EPA should
- 9 explicitly acknowledge these risk/benefit data
- 10 rather than inaccurately stating that compliance
- 11 with NAAQS protects health.
- 12 Because even compliance with current NAAQS
- 13 standards can expose vulnerable populations such as
- 14 the North Slope Borough population to excess risk
- 15 and because the North Slope Borough population is an
- 16 EJ community, the EPA should undertake a more
- 17 detailed EJ assessment -- which is environmental
- 18 justice -- of the excess health risks from its
- 19 proposed air quality permit.
- 20 The fact that Shell has chosen to take the
- 21 route of meeting the minimal standards after
- 22 visiting the North Slope communities and stating
- 23 that Shell wants -- okay. The fact -- let me start
- 24 over.
- 25 The fact that Shell has chosen to take the

- 1 route of meeting the minimal standards after
- 2 visiting the North Slope communities and stating
- 3 that Shell wants to beef up their relationship with
- 4 North Slope communities and do what is right in
- 5 regards to their relationship -- in regards to their
- 6 relationship with the North Slope communities and do
- 7 what is right in regards to their proposed oil and
- 8 gas developments is a slap in our face, as the
- 9 people who will still be residing in the region far
- 10 after Shell has decided that it is time to pack up
- 11 and leave.
- 12 John Hoffmeister, President of Shell for
- 13 the United States, if I remember his title
- 14 correctly, was in Barrow in the month of February
- 15 stating such comments. We want to come back after
- 16 having such a fast-paced process with the leasing
- 17 program. We now want to come back to the North
- 18 Slope and do things right and work with the North
- 19 Slope communities to make it a better process.
- 20 Shell's decision to submit their
- 21 application for a minor permit authorization shows
- 22 that they are not willing to do the right thing by
- 23 requesting for a major permit authorization that
- 24 would require them to incorporate the best available
- 25 control technologies to be compliant with the

- 1 ambient air quality standards with EPA.
- 2 These types of actions by industry and
- 3 federal agencies are avenues for us to experience
- 4 extreme stress which, in turn, causes unhealthy
- 5 events to occur for us as a people, whether they are
- 6 physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual. This
- 7 allows for fear to take root in us as a people with
- 8 both the industry and federal agencies that seem to
- 9 support the health of industry profit over the
- 10 health of a community. These types of symptoms are
- 11 an adverse health effect in itself.
- 12 ICAS supports all the comments that have
- 13 been submitted on behalf of the North Slope Borough
- 14 also, and will be submitting additional comments for
- 15 the April 1, 2008 written comment deadline.
- In closing, I hope and pray that EPA will
- 17 take these comments to heart because they come from
- 18 the heart of the Inupiat people of the North Slope
- 19 Region.
- 20 Tavra, Quyanaqpak. Martha Ipalook-Falk.
- 21 MR. ROCKWELL: Has Earl joined us on
- 22 the telephone yet?
- MS. KRISTI FRANKSON: Oh, I'm sorry.
- 24 He didn't come by.
- MR. ROCKWELL: Is there anyone else

- 1 on the telephone who would like to give testimony?
- MS. VILLA: I don't think so.
- MR. ROCKWELL: Dan, is there anyone
- 4 else who has signed in who would like to give
- 5 testimony?
- 6 MR. MAHAR: No.
- 7 MR. ROCKWELL: Okay, hearing none,
- 8 let me ask the audience at large: Is there anyone
- 9 who would like to give testimony tonight.
- 10 Seeing no affirmative answers, I believe we
- 11 have captured the testimony that we can capture
- 12 tonight, and at five minutes after 8:00 we will call
- 13 a 15-minute recess to the hearing. We will leave
- 14 the phone lines open. I'm hoping that Earl will
- 15 come back and -- and we will be able to capture his
- 16 testimony. Thank you.
- 17 MS. TPALOOK-FALK: Martha
- 18 Ipalook-Falk for the record again. I forgot to make
- 19 the comment that you had requested of each speaker.
- 20 I recommend that this permit be denied by EPA for
- 21 Shell's OCS operations.
- MR. ROCKWELL: Thank you. So we will
- 23 take a 15-minute break, then, now. Thank you.
- 24 (Off the record.)
- MR. ROCKWELL: Okay. It's 22 minutes

after 8:00. We have taken a little bit longer than 1 2. a 15-minute recess. I want to call the hearing back 3 to order and remind everyone that we are here taking testimony on the proposed revision to the air permit 5 for Shell. And I'll ask again if there is anyone on 7 the telephone who would like to provide testimony. MS. VILLA: Earl stayed at home. 8 MR. ROCKWELL: Sounds as if there is 9 10 no one on the telephone who would like to give 11 testimony. Given that, I am sorry that we were 12 unable to get Earl, who we knew was trying to give 13 testimony. I hope that Earl knows that he can 14 provide written testimony or e-mail testimony to us. 15 And I hope that we can pick up that testimony in one 16 form or the other. 17 I'd like to thank all of you for being here tonight. I appreciate all of your very thoughtful 18 19 comments, and call the hearing to an end. Thank 20 you. 21 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:25 p.m.) 22 23 24 25

1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in
3	and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:
4	That the foregoing proceedings were taken
5	before me at the time and place herein set forth;
6	that the proceedings were reported stenographically
7	by me and later transcribed under my direction by
8	computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true
9	record of the proceedings taken at that time; and
10	that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in
11	the outcome of the action herein contained.
12	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
13	subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this $\frac{1}{1}$
14	day of
15	
16	MARY A. VAVRIK,
17	Registered Merit Reporter Notary Public for Alaska
18	Notary rubite for Arabka
19	My Commission Expires: November 5, 2008
20	032508barrow
21	USZSUODALIOW
22	grand the state of
23	STATE OF ALASKA
24	NOTAR PUBLIC MARY A. VAVRIK
25	The same of the sa